

stature compared with typical *S. terebinthinaceum*, but these differences have not been correlated in other material examined. Apparently, there is considerable variation in typical *S. terebinthinaceum* as to height of plant, size of leaves, size of heads, and length of ray flowers.—JULIAN A. STEYERMARK, Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, Illinois

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PELTANDRA VIRGINICA IN WELLAND COUNTY, ONTARIO.—*Peltandra virginica* (L.) Schott & Endl., the Virginian Arrow Arum has long been considered a rare plant in Ontario. Macoun, in his Catalogue of Canadian Plants, published in 1888 made reference to this fact. In describing its occurrence “. . . in a marsh about a mile beyond ‘The Ferry’ Prince Edward County, near Belleville, Ontario . . .” he implied that this was the only location known to him at that time. Soper, in his Preliminary Checklist of Plants in Ontario South of the Canadian Shield, published in May, 1949, indicates that Macoun’s record for *Peltandra virginica* stands alone for this Province, and further emphasizes the rarity of this species by suggesting the possibility that it may be extinct in Ontario, since no recent records have come from the only known station in the Belleville area.

In 1949 considerable interest was aroused when it became known that specimens of *Peltandra virginica* were included in plant collections submitted to McMaster University by Mr. Bert Miller, naturalist of Fort Erie, who was engaged in collecting in Welland Co., Ontario during the summer of 1948. These activities were part of a project involving extensive floral studies in the counties bordering the eastern portion of Lake Erie, initiated by the Department of Botany and assisted financially through a grant from the Ontario Council of Research.

According to Gray’s Manual of Botany, 8th edition, 1950, *Peltandra virginica* is widely distributed in the United States, including neighboring New York State, hence it is not surprising that it should be found in portions of Southern Ontario. This new record for Welland County, however, is particularly interesting, since after careful searching it has been found in this one specific area only—near the mouth of one of the sluggish streams flowing into Niagara River between Niagara Falls and Fort



Erie. The plants have formed dense clumps from two to four feet in diameter in shallow water and are distributed frequently throughout about one quarter of a mile of the length of the stream at this point. Plants do not occur either above or below this specific area.

The heavy foliage and slender inflorescences are carried well above the surface of the water. The tightly rolled spathe with pale undulate margin enclosing the whitish spadix with staminate flowers extending to the tip, agrees with Fernald's description published in RHODORA, Vol. 50: 591, March 1948. The dark green berries which are submerged at maturity because of the recurving habit of the fruiting scape, were collected in September, 1950, but on later examination on October 17th, no fruits were found in any of the inflorescences which could be reached. The spathes which had become considerably distended appeared to have been torn open, suggesting that some form of wildlife may have attacked them and removed the fruits. In literature pertaining to natural aquatic food for waterfowl it is indicated that the fruits of this plant, commonly called "Wampee" or "Duck Corn" are occasionally found in the crops of wood ducks. This lends support to the above, that the fruits may have been utilized for food.

To investigate the biology of this plant and to further explore its potentialities as a natural food for waterfowl, it has been successfully introduced under control, into the aquatic plant nursery in Cootes Paradise Marsh by the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton.—L. LAKING, McMaster University & Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

*Volume 53, no. 628, including pages 97-115 and plate 1166, was issued 18 April, 1951.*